Research and study of basic sciences

726. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently some fresh initiatives have been taken to revive research and the study of basic sciences as, reportedly, outline by the M.M. Sharma task force, constituted in March, 2005 to make an assessment of the present status of scientific research and training in the universities and to determine the areas of concern; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, including major recommendations made by the M.M. Sharma task force and the action taken/proposed to be taken thereon, alongwith their present status?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (b) A Task Force for basic scientific research in universities was set up by the Government with the following terms of reference:

(i) To make an assessment of the present status of scientific research & training in Universities and to determine the areas of concern.

(ii) To suggest solutions and strategies to retrieve and enhance the excellence of Universities in the area of scientific research and training.

(iii) To make an assessment of the resources required both in physical and financial terms to implement these solutions and its modalities.

The Task Force has mainly recommended that in order to promote quality scientific research in universities, infrastructural facilities ought to be upgraded by providing development grants for modern laboratories, physical infrastructure including uninterrupted power supply, water, safety requirements of international standards, high level equipment with built-in maintenance mechanism, exclusive research students' hostel and a research starter fund, need to create ten networking centres in Basic Sciences in leading departments of universities in different parts of the country to promote collaborative research, access to advanced facilities and imparting training in frontier areas, etc. The report of the Task Force

has been accepted by the Government and the UGC has been directed to implement the recommendations contained therein.

DTH license

727. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:
SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 4109 given in Rajya Sabha on the 2nd May, 2005 and state:

(a) whether M/s Space T.V. has since furnished the requisite details to facilitate further examination of their application for grant of DTH license;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any final decision has been taken by Government in the matter;

(d) if so, details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Space TV furnished the revised shareholder's aggreement between M/s. Tata Sons and M/s Network Digital Distribution Services (NDDS) as per the requirements of DTH guideline and provisions of the Companies Act, 1956.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Government has issued Letter of Intent (loI) to M/s Space TV on 17.5.2005.

(e) Does not arise.

License for DTH service

728. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some private companies have applied for license to provide Direct to Home (DTH) service;